

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY JUDICIARY AND RULES COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE; SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING ALL GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS EMPLOYERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TELEWORK POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES AND ENCOURAGING THE CONTINUED EXPLORATION AND, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE WITHIN AVAILABLE RESOURCES, ASSISTANCE IN THE IMPROVEMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF THE APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH WILL AID EMPLOYERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES IN MAXIMIZING THE FULL POTENTIAL DEPLOYMENT OF TELEWORK WITHIN THE STATE OF IDAHO.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, studies show that “work from home,” or at work sites geographically convenient to the residence of the employee, also known as “telework,” has untapped potential to address the need for significant reductions in energy consumption, carbon dioxide emissions and traffic congestion, and provides a viable alternative to relocation of workforce to facilities outside the United States for businesses seeking to reduce costs; and

WHEREAS, although such studies also show that nearly 30 percent of employees work at home at least one day per month, and nearly 45 percent have worked from home at some time, evidence indicates that more workers want to telework and are even willing to accept less pay to do so; and

WHEREAS, the ability to telework increases leisure time and boosts morale and productivity, as well as enables those who are elderly, disabled or have children in the home to participate more effectively in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, telework also benefits those who choose to, or must, commute or use the roadway system, through the resulting reduction in traffic congestion and less time spent on the road by teleworkers; and

WHEREAS, a workforce that is capable of teleworking on a regular basis is also more capable of maintaining continuity of operations in the face of a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or other emergency situation; and

WHEREAS, increased traffic, increased congestion and reduced air quality are of increasing concern and cost to the commerce of Idaho and the individual lives of Idahoans; and

WHEREAS, if we fail to take positive steps to improve air quality in our communities, it is likely that portions of Idaho will be designated as air quality nonattainment areas by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, a nonattainment designation for an area has a negative impact on economic development in such areas, and the resultant federally mandated government oversight and imposition of expensive and time consuming requirements to improve air quality to meet federal standards will be very costly to the citizens of Idaho; and

1 WHEREAS, traditional solutions such as building roads or alternative transportation sys-
2 tems such as light rail are expensive, cannot be done quickly, generally impact only targeted
3 corridor areas and oftentimes require ongoing subsidies; and

4 WHEREAS, traditional employer-employee relationships, coupled with manufacturing
5 and other location dependent jobs, require use of the transportation system to move the
6 employee to the job. An information based economy coupled with more flexible employer-em-
7 ployee arrangements enables many jobs to be moved to the employee through the use of
8 technology; and

9 WHEREAS, to achieve the full benefits of telework, it is essential that a strategy be
10 developed to promote and increase its use as a proactive, efficient, widespread and low-cost
11 solution to aid in reducing traffic and congestion, and to achieve necessary improvement of air
12 quality and the resulting avoidance of an EPA nonattainment designation, at far greater speed
13 and with far lower cost than other traditional options.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of
15 the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein,
16 that the Legislature does hereby support and encourage all government and business employers
17 in the development and implementation of telework policies and programs for their employees.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor of the State of Idaho and the Idaho
19 Legislature are hereby encouraged to continue the exploration and, to the extent feasible within
20 available resources, assistance in the improvement and availability of the appropriate technol-
21 ogy infrastructure which will aid employers and their employees in maximizing the full poten-
22 tial deployment of telework within the state of Idaho.